



Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service  
PO Box 150969  
Lakewood, Colorado 80215  
(303) 236-2300 1-800-392-3202

# COUNTY ESTIMATES

## Sorghum for Grain – 2002 Crop

Released: March 5, 2003

Colorado's drought had a severe impact on sorghum production in the state for the 2002 crop. Colorado producers harvested just 1,800,000 bushels of sorghum in 2002, down 81 percent from the 9,460,000 bushels produced the previous year and the smallest crop since 1952. Conditions were very marginal for planting sorghum early in the year, but many producers seeded the crop in hopes of getting enough moisture to produce a crop. In addition, a severe shortage of forage prompted many producers to plant sorghum for forage rather than grain. As a result, the percentage of planted acres harvested for grain was very low. For the small portion of the crop that was irrigated, water shortages and prolonged hot, dry weather during the growing season limited yield potential. Dryland acreages suffered as well. Many counties had very few, if any, reports of dryland acres harvested, making it very difficult to prepare county estimates for the 2002 crop. Producers planted 350,000 acres in 2002, up 13 percent from 310,000 acres planted in 2001. However, the harvested for grain area, at 90,000 acres, declined 59 percent from the 220,000 acres harvested a year earlier. The state's average yield of 20.0 bushels per acre was 23.0 bushels below the previous year.

**Baca County** continued to be the largest sorghum producing area in Colorado even though the 965,000 bushels produced in 2002 represented a 76 percent decline from the 4,042,000 bushel crop produced in 2001. The latest crop accounted for 54 percent of the state's total production of 1,800,000 bushels. Baca County's 2001 crop represented 43 percent of the state's total crop of 9,460,000 bushels. The 53,800 acres harvested in 2002 reflected a 42 percent decline from the 92,000 acres harvested for grain the previous year. In addition, the average yield of 18.0 bushels per acre for the 2002 crop was 26.0 bushels per acre below the 44.0 bushel average realized from the 2001 crop.

**Prowers County** moved up to a distant second place ranking in 2002 with a total crop of 406,000 bushels of grain sorghum. The 2002 crop was 74 percent smaller than the 2001 crop of 1,557,000 bushels. Producers harvested just 10,700 acres of grain sorghum in 2002 compared with 28,800 acres harvested the previous year. In addition, the average yield of 38.0 bushels per acre was 16.0 bushels below the 2001 crop average of 54.0 bushels per acre.

**Kiowa County** dropped into a third place ranking in grain sorghum production by producing 143,000 bushels in 2002. The latest crop was 92 percent smaller than the 1,809,000 bushel crop produced in 2001. Producers harvested just 9,000 acres for grain in 2002 compared with 50,600 acres harvested the previous year. In addition, the average yield of 16.0 bushels per acre for the 2002 crop was 20.0 bushels below the 2001 crop average of 36.0 bushels.

**Bent County** moved up to a fourth place ranking of the state's sorghum grain producing counties with a total output of 73,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2002. The latest crop was 81 percent smaller than the 2001 crop output of 375,000 bushels. Producers harvested 1,000 acres in 2002 compared with 5,000 acres the previous year. The 2002 average yield of 73.0 bushels per acre was only 2.0 bushels below the 2001 crop average of 75.0 bushels per acre. All of the Bent County acreage in 2002 was irrigated which enabled the county to have such a much higher average yield per acre than other producing counties. Bent County's yield was exceeded only by Pueblo County which averaged 90.0 bushels per acre on just 500 acres harvested for grain.

**Pueblo County** produced just 45,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2002 but it was enough to rank as the fifth largest grain sorghum producing area of the state. Producers harvested 500 acres of irrigated grain sorghum and obtained an average yield of 90.0 bushels per acre.

The **top five producing counties** produced 91 percent of the state's total grain sorghum crop of 1,800,000 bushels in 2002 compared with 87 percent of the total output of 9,460,000 bushels for the 2001 crop. There were only 10 other counties which produced grain sorghum in 2002 which accounted for the remaining 9 percent of the total production.

Lance Fretwell - Kiflam Hurlbut  
Agricultural Statisticians

R. René Picanso  
State Statistician

Sorghum for Grain: Acreage and production by county and district, Colorado, 2002

County and District	Acreage planted 1/  Acres	Irrigated			Non-Irrigated			Total		
		Acreage har- vested  Acres	Yield per acre  Bu.	Pro- duc- tion  Bu.	Acreage har- vested  Acres	Yield per acre  Bu.	Pro- duc- tion  Bu.	Acreage har- vested  Acres	Yield per acre  Bu.	Pro- duc- tion  Bu.
Chaffee . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clear Creek . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eagle . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gilpin . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gunnison . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jackson . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lake . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moffat . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Park . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pitkin . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rio Blanco . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Routt . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Summit . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Teller . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
NW & Mountain	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Boulder . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jefferson . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Larimer . . . . .	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Logan . . . . .	2,900	...	...	...	2,100	6.0	13,000	2,100	6.0	13,000
Morgan . . . . .	700	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sedgwick . . . . .	600	...	...	...	300	11.5	3,500	300	11.5	3,500
Weld . . . . .	8,600	...	...	...	2,100	8.0	16,500	2,100	8.0	16,500
Northeast	13,000	...	...	...	4,500	7.5	33,000	4,500	7.5	33,000
Adams . . . . .	2,900	...	...	...	500	15.0	7,500	500	15.0	7,500
Arapahoe . . . . .	2,700	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cheyenne . . . . .	38,900	...	...	...	2,000	10.0	20,000	2,000	10.0	20,000
Denver . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Douglas . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Elbert . . . . .	3,000	...	...	...	500	7.0	3,500	500	7.0	3,500
El Paso . . . . .	2,800	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kiowa . . . . .	21,500	1,000	63.0	63,000	8,000	10.0	80,000	9,000	16.0	143,000
Kit Carson . . . . .	9,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lincoln . . . . .	18,000	...	...	...	3,400	8.0	27,000	3,400	8.0	27,000
Phillips . . . . .	1,700	...	...	...	600	6.5	4,000	600	6.5	4,000
Washington . . .	5,400	...	...	...	2,500	13.0	32,000	2,500	13.0	32,000
Yuma . . . . .	3,600	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
East Central	110,000	1,000	63.0	63,000	17,500	10.0	174,000	18,500	13.0	237,000
Archuleta . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Delta . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dolores . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Garfield . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hinsdale . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
La Plata . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mesa . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Montezuma . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Montrose . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ouray . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Juan . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Miguel . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Southwest	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alamosa . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Conejos . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Costilla . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mineral . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rio Grande . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Saguache . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
San Luis Valley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Baca . . . . .	156,500	9,000	42.0	380,000	44,800	13.0	585,000	53,800	18.0	965,000
Bent . . . . .	5,900	1,000	73.0	73,000	...	...	...	1,000	73.0	73,000
Crowley . . . . .	4,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Custer . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fremont . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Huerfano . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Las Animas . . . . .	1,200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Otero . . . . .	5,300	1,000	41.0	41,000	...	...	...	1,000	41.0	41,000
Prowers . . . . .	47,300	5,500	60.5	333,000	5,200	14.0	73,000	10,700	38.0	406,000
Pueblo . . . . .	6,300	500	90.0	45,000	...	...	...	500	90.0	45,000
Southeast	227,000	17,000	51.5	872,000	50,000	13.0	658,000	67,000	23.0	1,530,000
State Total	350,000	18,000	52.0	935,000	72,000	12.0	865,000	90,000	20.0	1,800,000

1/ Planted for all purposes.